

Congresswoman NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ

Representing New York's 12th Congressional District
Ranking Democratic Member, House Small Business Committee



Disaster Resources Raised by \$1.4 Billion

In White House meeting, President Bush commits to \$21.4 billion in aid to NYC

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined the New York delegation at a White House meeting last month, where President George W. Bush vowed to provide New York City with an additional \$1.4 billion in aid to recover from the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center. His pledge raised the total amount dedicated for New York to \$21.4 billion.

"I am hopeful the President will stand by this promise," Velázquez said. "Over the last six months, I have watched residents of my district – including many small business owners in Chinatown – struggle to stay afloat. It is critical for the President to understand that without federal aid, it will be impossible to rebuild New York City."

About \$10 billion of the \$20 billion originally promised by Bush has already been spent. Of the

\$10 billion, a little over \$6 billion has gone to FEMA for clean-up efforts, close to \$3 billion has been used for economic development assistance, and more than \$1 billion was dedicated to other disaster relief and restoration activities.

An additional \$5.5 billion will be used to offer tax incentives for developing Lower Manhattan while \$100 million will go to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

The additional funding proposed by President Bush last month would include \$2.75 billion to repair damaged transportation infrastructure, \$1.8 billion in federal transportation money to help plan and build a transit hub, \$167 million for emergency repairs of highways near the World Trade Center, and \$750 million to reimburse costs for repairing damaged facilities.

Velázquez Challenges Bush on Welfare

Proposal hurts legal immigrants, working families, single-parent homes

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez criticized President George W. Bush's welfare reform proposal last month for provisions banning assistance for legal immigrants, imposing more stringent work requirements and freezing funds for transportation assistance and child care for the next five years.

"We are in the midst of a child care crisis," Congresswoman Velázquez said. "One in four children children lives in poverty and more than 50,000 children are on a waiting list for public child care."

The President's plan would require more work from families, but spends no additional money on transportation and child care. Providing those services would make it easier to meet those even tougher new work requirements.

The work requirements would force every state to have 70 percent of its welfare recipients working 40 hours a week. This is a huge increase from the current policy, under which 50 percent of recipients must work at least 30 hours a week.



Congresswoman Velázquez is a leader on welfare rights issues. She introduced a reform bill last year.

Gouverneur Hospital Celebrates 116 Years of Service

Velázquez attends ribbon-cutting for renovation, expansion

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez joined New York City Health and Hospitals President Benjamin Chu, MD, and Executive Director of Gouverneur Healthcare Services Samuel Lehrfeld to celebrate the renovation and expansion of their historic hospital last month.

Gouverneur Healthcare Services has been a leading source of quality healthcare for residents of the Lower East Side for more than 116 years. It was the first hospital with a woman physician and opened the City's first tuberculosis clinic in 1903. It is New York City's largest Diagnostic and Treatment Center and provides more than 300,000 visits each year in over 60 ambulatory care service programs.

Gouverneur unveiled a new lobby as part of the hospital's effort to improve patient flow and provide better access to medical services.



Congresswoman Velázquez attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Gouverneur hospital last month.

Velázquez Wants Chinatown Representative on WTC Board

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation needs community voice

Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez is urging New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg to appoint a representative from Chinatown to the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the agency coordinating redevelopment efforts after September 11.

Chinatown was especially hard-hit following the terrorist attacks, with businesses losing up to 70 percent of pre-attack commerce. The community depended on business from the World Trade Center, and the assault and recovery efforts have kept tourists, customers and visitors away from Chinatown.

The LMDC is charged with writing a plan to redevelop the World Trade Center site. The agency's Board currently consists of 11 members, without a

representative of Chinatown. Last month, Mayor Bloomberg and Governor George Pataki announced the expansion of the Board from 11 to 14. Congresswoman Velázquez is requesting that one of the new members include a representative from Chinatown.

The Congresswoman said, "Chinatown has been greatly affected by the events of September 11 and the resulting economic slowdown. Due to its proximity to the World Trade Center, Chinatown, like much of Lower Manhattan was inaccessible for several weeks following the terrorist attacks, resulting in millions of dollars in lost income. Even now, as much of New York and Lower Manhattan are returning to normal, patronage of Chinatown, which relies heavily on tourism, remains significantly low and garment production is still only at half capacity. Area businesses and workers continue to struggle."

"The residents and businesses of Chinatown are vital to the economic and cultural base of the City," the Congresswoman continued. "The very characteristics that have caused Chinatown to be so heavily impacted by the collapse of the World Trade Center - its proximity to and economic interdependency with the towers - are the same characteristics that make its representation on the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Board so vital. Indeed, the success of efforts to rebuild Lower Manhattan depends on Chinatown's participation and input. I respectfully request that you fill one of the additional three positions with a member of this important community."



Congresswoman Velázquez meets with Henry L. Chung, Andrew Hsia, and CCBA President Ting Din Ng

Grants Awarded to Our Community

Charles B. Wang Com. Health Center.....\$1,367,140
Primary care and substance abuse for the homeless

Med. and Health Research Associates....\$228,825
Head Start program